

TRIBUTE TO MARY AND PHILLIP  
KENTER

**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 1997*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed Chamber to pay tribute to Mary and Phillip Kenter, of Riverhead, Long Island, as they celebrate their blessed 40th wedding anniversary.

I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives believe as I do, that marriage is the bedrock of our society, the foundation on which all of our values, beliefs, and hopes for the future stand. That is why we, as national leaders, should take a moment to recognize and honor Mary and Phillip Kenter for all of the love, loyalty, and faith that goes into creating a marriage that has endured and grown for 40 years.

Though Phillip is a native of Flushing, Queens, and Mary is from Norwalk, CT, their love first ignited on the warm sands of Jones Beach, Long Island, where they met in 1955. With a courtship that progressed while Phillip attended the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School, the two were married on September 7, 1957, 1 month after he graduated OCS and a week before he shipped out aboard a Navy destroyer for the next 2½ years.

Their first son, Phillip, was born a little more than 2 years later and Dennis was born about the time his father left the Navy in 1961. Two years later, with a vision of providing TV to all of Long Island, Phillip founded Long Island Cablevision, a company he sold to the Los Angeles Times Mirror Co. in 1968. By then, their son Kevin had arrived and the Kenters settled in Riverhead.

Gifted with an entrepreneurial spirit, Phillip and Mary then founded Relay Communications Center. A true family business, each of the Kenter sons are active members of the telephone answering, two-way radio and paging services company. There are 45 other members of the Relay Communications work force and each of them are treated as members of the extended Kenter family, a feeling that Phillip and Mary extend to the entire Riverhead community.

Raising a family and growing a small business would drain the time and energy of most, but Phillip and Mary have also been active members of the Riverhead community as Scout leaders, volunteers at Central Suffolk Hospital, in the Rosary Altar Society at St. John's Roman Catholic Church, and the Riverhead Rotary, Women's and Garden clubs.

All of this demonstrates the values, caring and commitment that Phillip and Mary offer their community, attributes that have served their marriage well, while making Long Island an even better place by their example. The foundation of the Riverhead community, indeed all of Long Island, has been strengthened for the past 40 years by the hard work and devotion that Phillip and Mary Kenter have dedicated to their marriage. We see the many blessings and gifts that have been bestowed upon them, of which they so generously share, and understand the true meaning of family values. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this entire Chamber join me in offering our praise and heartiest congratulations to them on this

blessed anniversary. A union as blessed as theirs will surely endure forever.

RECOGNIZING THE GIFT OF TIME  
FOUNDATION

**HON. JAMES M. TALENT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 1997*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of an outstanding new organization which has dedicated itself to aid in the development of our Nation's children. The Gift of Time Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing community service, academic, and physical fitness programs for children between the ages of 4 and 18.

The mission of the Gift of Time Foundation is: "To provide children with resources, opportunities and assistance that help them develop high self-esteem, self confidence, socially acceptable value systems, diverse cultural appreciation and family values by providing them with structured environments for membership in mandatory participation in physical fitness, academics, and community service programs. To provide children with personal character development assistance for self expression through structured positive activities alternatives."

The Gift of Time Foundation is spearheaded by Mr. E. Douglas McFarlin. His vision is to build a youth complex in St. Louis that will provide children with the upper direction to meet the challenges of our modern society. Mr. McFarlin is working closely with business, community, and civic leaders to launch this important project. He is hoping that the St. Louis complex will be the first of many across the country.

Mr. Speaker, organizations like the Gift of Time Foundation, can help a community in building character and values in its children. The efforts of Mr. McFarlin and his organization are to be commended for taking this challenge head on. I ask that you join me in recognizing this fine organization and wishing Mr. McFarlin the very best on his endeavors to bring this program to the children of our Nation.

QUEENSBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE  
COMPANY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

**HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 1997*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned many times on the floor of Congress before, I hold a special respect and admiration for volunteer fire companies and firefighters. Naturally, I reserve even deeper admiration for the unit I served with myself for many years, my hometown fire department, Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Company. It just so happens that this very special fire company is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Mr. Speaker, the whole community and town government will turn out for the celebration, which is quite understandable. That's because for 50 years, like her counterparts ev-

erywhere in rural and suburban America, Queensbury Central has provided outstanding fire protection for her neighbors in a growing community.

And I'd like to tell you about the traits which make me so fond of volunteer fire departments and the communities they serve. No. 1 is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. That camaraderie makes up much of the charm of small town life but also generates a desire to look out for one another and the needs of the community. That's what makes places like Queensbury such places, great places, to live and raise a family. This concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the Queensbury Fire Company. For 50 years now, this organization has provided critical services for the citizens on a volunteer basis.

And in many rural areas, these volunteer fire companies offer the only available fire protection. But there is nothing wanting in the professionalism and training of these companies. Every year they save countless lives and millions of dollars in property across New York State. These volunteer firemen and the devoted ladies auxiliaries that provide much-needed support make incredible sacrifices in time and effort. Often, they must drop whatever they're doing and respond to a fire alarm. You never know how many lives, not to mention homes and property, may be at stake. Mr. Speaker, in many ways these volunteer fire companies are the last remnants of America's pioneer spirit when neighbor helped neighbor in times of need or trouble.

Which brings me to the other primary reason I have such fondness for fire departments like the one in Queensbury, the spirit of volunteerism they exemplify. You know, volunteerism, pride, and patriotism are the three principles which make this country great. And there is just something so staunchly American about being a volunteer fire company. Giving of oneself with no expectation of gain or profit. That's what it's all about.

Mr. Speaker, I have always judged people based on what they give back to their communities. By that measure, all the members of the Queensbury Volunteer Fire Company and the auxiliary are truly great Americans. On the weekend of September 13 and 14, their 50th anniversary will be commemorated with an open house, parade, and firefighter's competition. But Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all members join me today in paying our own tribute to Chief Richard Jones and the other members of Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Company, which for 50 years has served my hometown in the finest American tradition of helping one's fellowman.

BOMBING IN ISRAEL

**HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 1997*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to use my 1 minute today for two purposes: The first is to extend condolences to all Israelis and their families who were involved in the bombing at the Ben-Yehuda marketplace this morning.

The second is to urge PLO Chairman Yasar Arafat to take immediate and decisive action